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THE JOURNAL.

SALISBURY, THURSDAY, OCT. 3.

FROM THE CASKET.

ON KNOWLEDGE.

Or an inquiry into the Knowledge of the Ancients as compared with that of the Moderns.

"There is nothing new under the sun."
Holy Writ.

There is a dogma held by some philosophers, that genius is entirely dependent on opportunity, application and circumstance, and that one man is as likely to become great as another, if equal advantages are granted. Not less prevalent, and not less false than this hypothesis, is the notion among the superficial, that the moderns have far outstripped the ancients in general knowledge, and that the sciences have been carried in discovery and improvement beyond any knowledge the ancients had of them. The falsity of this may be proven by many respectable authorities, as first I shall speak of Chemistry.

Chemistry, in which so much important has been made of late and a century ago was but the rude work of a science, was nevertheless known to the ancients. Chemistry is mentioned in Egypt. Plutarch, in his *Life of Cato*, calls a district of Egypt *Chemia*, whence from *Chemia* or *Chymia* the word chemistry is derived. The word *Chymia* is written, *Chymia* in the land of Chama, and the Copts still call it *Chama*.

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There are now some chemical operations which were unknown to the ancients, which we did not understand some modern science cannot fathom. The ancients inform us that Moses had the golden calf potable, which he had acknowledged was the power of any chemist of time. Modern chemistry has a solution for gold, which is the *aqua regia*, a mixture of nitric and muriatic acids united, but does not render the gold potable; on the contrary it would destroy life. The element with which they reared the monuments of their glory is unknown to modern times; and also the manner of embalming their mummies, which have resisted the tooth of time three thousand years. Every means have been tried by the moderns, to recover the lost art of embalming bodies, but without effect; which evidences of the Egyptians a superior knowledge of chemistry. The mummies of Lewis and Clark, and Jean de Bois, who were celebrated in the art, have gone to corruption. There is a mummy in the museum at London, which is covered with ground glass of various colors, which serves to show that they were acquainted also with the manufacture of glass.

We are told by Pliny, that the emperor Caius by means of fire extracted gold from pigment, which the alchemists could never do, though in hunting for gold the stumbled on phosphorus. Cleopatra laid a wager with Marc Anthony, that she could exceed him in the costliness of a supper, and, in conjunction with Phocas, her physician, dissolved a pearl of great price in a kind of vinegar, which was served up at table as a conserve. These processes are far beyond modern chemistry, and there is another I shall mention equally as strange. Petronius informs us, that an artificer presented to Tiberius a vessel made of malleable glass, which he had made to let fall. The artificer took it up, and with a hammer beat out the bottom, and the glass fell into the water, and upon asking if any one else knew the secret of making such glass,

and being answered in the negative, ordered him immediately to be beheaded. At least such a discovery should render gold and silver of no value. That such glass was made cannot be denied, for the authors of the time speak positively on the subject, among whom were Pliny, Petronius, Isidorus and Don Casius.

Painting on glass was carried to far greater beauty amongst the ancients than among the moderns. The windows of their churches were painted in the most brilliant manner, without clouding in the least degree the transparency of the glass. Bernhart declares that it cannot be imitated in modern times. The ancients also excelled in enamelling the mosaic works, as may be seen in the works of Pliny, it is mistake not. Also in their imitations of precious stones.

That the ancients understood the art of distillation, is proven by the fact that the alembic, one of the principle instruments, derived its name from the Greek language. Athenæus tells us that the word *ambix* meant the cover of a pot and among the Arabians the same term was used, only with the addition of *al*, which begins most of their words, and hence the name *alembic*. Seneca describes an instrument of the same kind; and Aristotle tells us that oil was extracted from sea salt, which of course must have been distilled. Pliny gives evidence of the same. Galen performed many experiments by fire, and knew that by it many secrets of nature might be discovered. Hippocrates, the friend of Democritus, understood the general principles of chemistry, and was well instructed in its useful parts. Many passages from Plato are considered authorities in chemistry, and Diodorus mentions many substances now known in chemistry. Ammonia, we are told, received its name from having been discovered near the temple of Jupiter.

Petronius declares that Democritus, the father of experimental philosophy, extracted the juice of every simple, and that there was not a quality belonging to the vegetable or mineral kingdom that had eluded his curious research.

The ancients are considered in the background with respect to the invention of gunpowder, but there is numerous proof upon proof that they were well acquainted with it. Virgil and Valerius Flaccus speak of the imitation of thunder, produced by Salmoneus, in such a manner that we cannot but believe that they were effected by gunpowder. He fell a victim to his experiments, and it was believed that Jupiter destroyed him for his audacity. Dion informs us that Caligula imitated thunder, and the historian Agathias says, that Anthemius of Tralles fell with the rhetoricalian Zeno, and set fire to his house with thunder and lightning. But to set the matter beyond doubt, Marcus Groecus gives a receipt, which is the same now used, for making gunpowder; namely, sulphur, charcoal and salt petre. He then mentions the mode of making rockets. This proves that the ancients were not unacquainted with the science of chemistry.

The moderns claim all praise with respect to that part of philosophy which treats of sensible qualities, or which places sensation in the mind instead of the body. Yet Socrates, Plato, and a host of ancient philosophers, were well aware that odours and colours, heat and cold, were sensations produced in the mind; produced by the varied operations of surrounding bodies. Aristotle has told us, that "sensible qualities exist in the mind." The very doctrine of Descartes and Mallebranche was comprehended in the Pyrrhonic philosophy. Democritus was the first who denied that bodies possess sensible qualities, and Epicurus adopted his doctrine. Plato says, "we ought not to conclude that the wind is in itself hot and cold at the same time; but to conclude with Protagoras that he who is hot feels it hot &c." Sextus Empiricus, when speaking of the doctrine of Democritus, says, that sensible qualities have nothing in reality but in the opinion of those who are differently affected by them, according to the different dispositions of their organs; and that from this difference of disposition arise the perceptions of sweet and bitter, heat and cold; also that we do not deceive ourselves in affirming that we feel such impressions,

but in concluding that exterior objects must have in themselves something analogous to our feelings." Epicurus speaks in a similar manner.

Even Newton's theory of colors which has immortalized his name and shed glory upon the age and country in which he lived, was known to the ancients. As the ancients gave birth to the sciences, so they seemed determined to leave little for posterity to discover. Pythagoras had a just conception of the formation of colours, and his disciples taught the doctrine that they were the result of the different modifications of reflected light. Plato and his disciples taught, that light was emitted in straight lines and proved that the angle of incidence is always equal to the angle of reflection. Plato has told us the same thing that Newton has told us; that colors are produced by light transmitted from bodies. Descartes held the doctrine that light was propagated in an instant, which though wrong he took from Aristotle. Modern philosophy teaches that light is progressive, that one particle sets another particle in motion, until it reaches the eye. Aristotle held the same opinion. He calls light a pure subtle and homogeneous matter, and Chrysippus, with Philoponus says, that light is set in motion in the same manner that when one end of a stick is moved the other end moves also.

The attraction of gravitation is considered an immortal honour to modern discovery, but this too was known to the ancients, Sir Isaac Newton having only explained it in a clear and forcible manner. The followers of Pythagoras, and Plato himself, accounted for the revolution of the planets by the two powers of projection and gravity, and Timæus mentions the same. Plutarch, who was well versed in astronomy, speaks of that force by which the planets gravitate towards each other, and, in explaining the tendency all bodies have to fall to the earth, he says, it is owing "to a reciprocal attraction, whereby all bodies have this tendency, and which collects into one, the parts constituting the sun and moon, and retains them in their spheres." The ancients knew that gravitation was to a planet, as the inverse proportion of its quantum of matter and the square of its distance. Aristotle and Lucretius believed, that the gravity of a body was increased or diminished according to the quantity of matter contained in it. Galileo candidly acknowledges that he derived from Plato his idea of the mode of calculating how the different degrees of velocity ought to produce that uniformity of motion seen in the revolutions of the planets.

The Copernician System, which fixes the sun in the centre, the fixed stars in the circumference, and the planets in the space between, is another boast of modern discovery, though it was well known to Pythagoras, to Plato, to Aristarchus, and to many other celebrated ancient philosophers. Philolaus, who published the system of Pythagoras, remarks that the earth moves in an oblique circle, evidently meaning the zodiac. Aristarchus placed the sun, as a fixed body in the centre of an orbit around which the earth revolved. Plato became convinced of his error in making the sun revolve round the earth, and re-assumed the doctrine which he had long before imbibed from Timæus, the Locrian. He expressed himself sorry that he had not followed the indications of nature, and placed the sun in the centre.

There is no doctrine in philosophy so ancient as that which teaches that the earth is round, though Galileo in modern times was punished for asserting it. We are told by Diogenes Laertius, that Plato was the first who called those people on the opposite side of the earth antipodes; Pythagoras having the honor of the doctrine. The doctrine was a subject of controversy in the time of Plutarch, as may be gathered from his works. The very appearances and circumstances, which were brought in ancient times as proof of the sphericity or roundness of the earth, are still used. From the circular shadow of the earth on the moon in an eclipse, and from the stars changing their position as we travel south, Aristotle concluded that the earth was round; and Pliny drew the same consequence from observing, that when the land has disappeared from a person on the deck of a ship, it is still visible to one on the mast.

Notwithstanding the great invention

of telescopes, by which the moderns have discovered that the planets revolve on their own axis, the ancients discovered the same without any such aid. Atticus tells us, that Plato made each of the planets move about its own centre, while they were moving in their general course round the sun. Cicero that the same doctrine was held by Nectas of Syracuse. The very same doctrine, which is taught by the moderns concerning the moon, was held by the ancients. Thales taught that the moon had no light within itself, but shone by reflected light from the sun. From this, Empedocles accounts for the absence of heat in its rays, it being impossible by the strongest lens to produce fire. Orpheus, and after him Pythagoras, taught the doctrine that the moon, like our earth, was inhabited; though they believed that they were a nobler race than those on the earth. Orpheus speaks in his verses, of the mountains and valleys of the moon, and Democritus declares that the shadowy parts of the moon were occasioned by the lofty Lunar mountains, which prevented the valleys from reflecting light, by overshadowing them. Plutarch gives another reason, for the existence of those spots. He says, "those deep and extensive shades on the moon must be occasioned by the vast seas it contains, which are incapable of reflecting so vivid a light, as the more solid and opaque parts; or by caverns extremely wide and deep, wherein the rays of the sun are absorbed." It may be gathered from the works of the same author, that in his time, as well as in modern times, it was a subject of dispute whether the moon yielded vapours for the production of rain. He held the negative opinion, and believed that it was impossible, inasmuch as the moon was heated by the constant rays of the sun which must dry up its humidity. Therefore, he was convinced that clouds, rain, winds, plants and animals had no existence on the bright satellite of the earth. The moderns hold the very same opinions, and indulge in the same controversy. The doctrine of the truly philosophic Herschel, that the fixed stars were suns round which other systems like our Solar system revolved, was taught by the ancient philosophers, proof of which I could bring from the works of many, if space would permit. Herschel's idea of the galaxy, or milky way, was familiar to the ancients. Aristotle's notion that it was caused by exhalations suspended in the air was false, and also that of Pythagoras, who believed it once to have been the sun's path; but Democritus tells us, "that what we call the milky way contains in it innumerable fixed stars, the mixture of whose distant rays occasion the brightness which we thus denounce." This is precisely the doctrine of Galileo. The Grecian philosophers were familiar with the idea of a plurality of worlds, for Plutarch says he had no doubt of the existence of innumerable, though not an infinite multitude of worlds, and that like ours they were composed of land and water, and surrounded by sky. Anaximeas believed that there were other systems revolving round other suns, and Thales held the same opinion. Even Orpheus, who lived in the time of the Trojan war, hints at it in one of his poems. Democritus hints at the existence of satellites, which the telescope has since brought to light.

It appears that the ancients had a correct notion of comets, for Pythagoras and Aristotle both call them wandering planets, which appeared only in certain parts of their orbits. Seneca informs us that the Chaldeans considered comets to be planetary bodies, and Diodorus Siculus says that the Egyptians could foretell the return of comets. Seneca, in his seventh book of natural questions, speaks elegantly on the subject; he tells us, "that there was an immense number of them, but that their orbits were so situated, that so far from being always in view, they could only be seen at one of the extremities." The ancients left the moderns far behind in making discoveries in Mathematics, a few of which I shall mention. It is conceded by all that Thales was the first who predicted eclipses, taught that the earth was spherical, and the ecliptic in an oblique position. No less service did he render to geometry than to the sciences generally. He demonstrated the properties of the circle, discovered

that the angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are equal, and that the two opposite angles of a right line cutting another are equal. He also taught the Egyptians how to measure the pyramid by the length of their shadows. Pythagoras, who was versed in all the sciences, was the first who reduced music to the principles of a science, which was suggested by the different sounds which proceeded from the hammers of a forge. Noticing that they came into unison at the fourth, fifth and eighth percussions, he supposed that the difference in the weight of the hammers must be the cause, which he found to be the case from experiments on strings. He made many discoveries in geometry, among which is that, wherein he demonstrates that of all plane figures, the circle is the largest, and the sphere of all solids. Plato discovered the conic sections, and if we judge from the arithmetic of Diophantus, there can be no doubt but the ancients understood Algebra. It is further evident from the demonstrations of Archimedes, concerning the spiral line and its properties. Aristarchus was the first who concerted a manner of measuring the sun's distance from the earth, and Hipparchus, to his immortal honour, first opened the way to the discovery of the procession of the equinoxes.

Though the invention of the printing press and the steam engine have conferred great honour on the moderns, yet they have not surpassed the ancients in mechanics and the general arts; indeed in many of them they are behind. The vast engines by which Archimedes defended the city of Syracuse, have never been equalled. He invented an organ of very complicated construction, which, besides the sounds of flutes and other instruments, imitated the male and female voice in a variety of tones, though all in harmony. His machines for hurling at the enemy vast

so constructed as to seize a ship and tear her to pieces, were truly wonderful. We are told that there was an engine at Alexandria, when that city was besieged by Julius Cæsar, that drew vast quantities of water from the river and hurled it in the faces of the enemy. To Archimedes we owe the invention of the screw which bears his name, and to Ctesibius the invention of the pump. Many others might be mentioned, but I shall pass on to architecture. The Pyramids of Egypt have never known a rival in modern times, and the magnificent temples and places of Palmyra, now in ruins, have never been even imitated, to say nothing of the noble buildings of Babylon. The grandeur of ancient Italy will perhaps never be surpassed or equalled in architecture.

With respect to statues and sculpture generally, the ancients excelled. The Colossus at Rhodes was a wonderful production, the thumb of which few men could encompass without stretched arms. Pliny tells us that Semiramis had amount out into a statue of herself which was nearly two miles high; and an artist according to Plutarch, offered to make a statue out of Mount Athos to represent Alexander which should hold a city in one hand and a river in the other. It would have been eight or ten miles in height and, more than a hundred in circumference. What sculptors of modern times can be compared with Praxiteles, Pheidias, Polyclethus, Cleomenes and others? What works can equal the Venus de Medici, now in the Farnesian palace, at Florence, executed by Cleomenes, the Athenian; the Niobe of Praxiteles at Rome; the Hercules strangling Anteus by Polyclethus; the statue of Laocoon, made by Polydorus, Athenodorus and Agesander, and the dying Gladiator, by Ctesilas? and what modern artist has equalled the Apollo of the Belvedere, executed by Agathias of Ephesus? This statue has been admired by thousands.

The ancient paintings were also of a superior cast. Those found in the ruins of Herculaneum may serve as examples. The picture of Chiron and Achilles, supposed to be the production of Parrhasius, and that of Theseus vanquishing the Minotaur, are considered excellent; also those of Pan and Olympus and the birth of Telephus. These were all produced in the decline of the arts, and if they were so excellent, what must have been the productions of Apelles, Zeuxis and the great masters of their time?

Thus we see that the ancients were not deficient in a general knowledge of the sciences and arts, though the superiority of the moderns is much harped on by those who are ignorant of the subject. The subject of this essay was suggested by hearing a gentleman in conversation say, that "the ancients knew nothing of the sciences in comparison with the moderns, and that no ancient undertaking could equal the proud achievements of modern times." Let the reader judge from the few instances here recorded, and they will teach those who scoff at the knowledge of the ancients, to "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's," or to bestow praise where praise is deservedly due. To know that we are so much indebted to the ancients, may also teach us to be grateful, and to improve those inestimable blessings, the sciences, which they have handed down to us.

Nor less are we indebted to the ancient historians, poets, orators and statesmen. We owe them not less for the examples they have set, than for the glorious emulation with which they have inspired us. Where among the moderns can we find historians equal to Xenophon, Thucydides and Tacitus? What poets equal to Homer and Virgil? Where can we find orators to compare with Demosthenes and Cicero, or statesmen to rival Solon and Lycurgus? The poems of the Iliad, Odyssey and Æneid, stand alone, and the moderns have a thousand times attempted to imitate them, but in vain. The grandeur and brilliancy of ancient genius has never been equalled, and can never be surpassed. Ancient genius, like the proud pyramids of Egypt, stands everlastingly unique in the world, and to remain without a parallel. Never did any country produce so many eminent philosophers as ancient Greece. Alas! that Greece, and Rome, Egypt and Arabia, the very cradles of the arts and sciences, should now be sunk in gothic ignorance and tread by a race of slaves! Alas! that the light of those luminaries of the world should so soon have been extinguished!

DAVES.

High prices for Lands.—The high prices at which several tracts of land were recently sold in Jefferson county, Va., afford a pleasing illustration of the important influence of rail roads and other useful methods of improvement on the value of real estate, which is worthy the consideration of the citizens of this State, more especially those who reside in and contiguous to the counties through which any of our contemplated rail roads will pass—an illustration, too, which claims the attention of the statesman. The chief end of all his public labors is the welfare of the commonwealth; and, in the discharge of his duties, it will be "a lamp unto his feet, and a light unto his path." The Charlottesville Free Press states the Kew's Ferry tract sold for 64 dollars per acre; a farm of 200 acres, a miles and a half from Charlottesville, was sold privately for 60 dollars per acre; a tract of 225 acres, with scarcely any improvements, brought a auction, 45 dollars per acre; and another, with ordinary buildings, was sold at auction, at \$43 70 cash.

Ral. Reg.

Col. HASKET, of South Carolina, finished his undertaking, of walking two thousand miles in seventy days, on bread and water, on Friday. He has, as will appear by his certified report, exceeded the distance nearly four hundred miles, and gained in weight 24 lb. He has visited nearly all the towns in the New England States, and will return home on his abstemious diet, travelling on foot. He is in perfect health and good spirits, and presents a living example of the good effects of temperance. He will, before his return, visit Salem and several other towns in our vicinity, and then proceed south to Philadelphia, at which place, to comply with the wishes of some professional gentlemen, he will undertake to walk forty miles a day, for six days, on a prescribed amount of food. After this, it is said he will prepare for publication his notes on diet, and publish them to be distributed gratis in the places he has visited. He stated to us, that his object has been, not to exhibit himself as possessing more physical power than others—but, he says, he believes that any man can perform the same. The time and distance were selected to prove this. First—the distance per day is answerable to ten hours labor, and then the time (the heat of summer) to show the effect of the diet in predisposing the body to stand the effect of heat. He will, we are informed, deliver a lecture in this city, on this subject, prior to his departure. He has certainly done great good to the cause of temperance, and we trust will benefit some of us by his lectures and writings.

Bos Eve Gaz.

ADVERTISING.

We have a word to say in behalf of this too much neglected custom. Doubtless our appeal will lose much of its force because we speak from interested motives. So we do: but others are equally, almost, interested. What gives a stranger a better idea of the business and importance of a place, than the advertisements in the newspaper? Does any one suppose that a mechanic, a merchant, or a tradesman, ever lost one cent by advertising? On the contrary, will any one say that it is not a positive and absolute gain, gain resulting from increased sales, a greater notoriety of his stand and occupation, and a direction of the public eye towards his establishment.

Our merchants are now beginning to receive their large and handsome fall supply of Goods—our mechanics have their shops full of the useful works of their skill and labor, and every thing is ready for that transaction of business. It is important that town and country should know this; that each man should spread before the public the inducements to visit his town and store—state what he has to sell and how advantageously people may deal with him. How can this be accomplished so well, as by telling it on this "folio of four pages," which will be seen on the merchant's desk and at the mechanic's work bench, at the tavern as well as at the domestic fireside.

We repeat that every man who advertises will find a positive advantage to arise from it and the town itself, as a whole, will be benefited. Let the enquiry be made where not to advertise is not to do business, and the answer will readily be given.

And if we could induce those to whom we particularly address ourselves to consult their own interest in this matter and thus further our interest, what after all, in the end, will it amount to? Only this: We should be enabled more readily to encourage those whom we employ; to lighten some little burden under which every newspaper editor labors to beautify, or perhaps enlarge our sheets, to find out some way for paying amply for what we might receive. If there can be the least objection to this why all we have to add is, that the people must be exceedingly hard to please.

Alex Gaz

HEALTH OF NEW ORLEANS

We are sorry to be obliged to notice that the epidemic with which our city is so sorely afflicted has in no wise abated. We caution strangers to beware of approaching our fatal shores at present, as death may be apprehended as the penalty of their ill advised temerity.

While on the subject of sickness, we cannot pass over in silence the miserable situation of our poorer classes, who may be so unfortunate as to be attacked with the prevailing disease. Without money, and with scarcely the necessities of life, they have to undergo trials which those in better circumstances can only have a faint and imperfect idea of. The hand of charity should be extended towards them, and something be done to ease poignancy of the distressing circumstances in which they are thus placed. We allude not to this matter to call into action the humane feeling of our fellow citizens, for we believe that no class of men are more actively benevolent than they are but only to remind that amidst the general calamity the sufferings of the wretched poor must be acute indeed.

N O Bee 9th inst.

We are informed that the Cholera has reappeared in St. Martinsville and Bonnet Carré, in this State.

N O Courier 10th inst.

Health of the city.—It becomes our painful duty to announce that the epidemic has greatly increased since our last of formerly we have stated that the virulence of the plague is worse this year than it was in 1829, we have now to notice that it is worse now than it was in 1819. Looking over the records of interments, we perceive that in 1816, the largest number of interments, was 47—We have now to record the interments of the 8th instant at 50. Several vessels have arrived here from Northern ports, having passengers on board—we do not wish to irritate their alarm, but really, unless they have particular business to detain them in the city, they should not remain. We trust that our absent friends will notice this caution and profit by it.

Mex. Ado. 10th inst.

Beat this.—Within the last four weeks, the Tremont line of stages between this City and Providence, has met with a variety of accidents, such as upsetting, breaking axle trees, &c. but no lives lost.

The Citizen's line, however, has gone ahead of the Tremont, and every other line of which we know any thing, in one particular, and that is in regard to human life. That line not only has never lost a life, but—what is quite remarkable in any line of stages—it has positively added to the number of the

human family.—On last Friday, the wife of an Irishman was delivered of twins in the stage between Providence and Dedham, which were alive at the last accounts and likely to do well. There were luckily no other passengers in the stage but the Irishman and his family. When any other line of stages can show any thing to equal this, we shall be happy to announce it.

Bos. At.

The Tailor's Dream.—A tailor of Bagdad during a severe illness dreamed that an angel appeared before him, bearing an immense flag formed from the pieces of cloth which he had abstracted at different times from his customers, and that he chastised him with a rod of iron while he waved the flag before his eyes. He awoke in an agony of terror, and avowed that he would never again steal cloth from his employers. Fearing, however, the influence of future temptations, he ordered his servant to remind him of the flag, whenever he saw him too sorely tempted. For some time the servant's hint checked the tailor's avarice; but at length a nobleman sent him a piece of rich brocade to make a robe whose beauty proved too strong for the tailor's resolution. "The flag, the flag," shouted the servant, when he saw the shears taking a suspicious direction. "Curse you and the flag," answered the tailor, "There was not a bit of stuff like this in it; besides there was a piece wanting in one of the corners, which this remnant will exactly supply."

Poor enough.—A weather beaten veteran in the service of General Alcohol, crawled in before the fire in a public house, and seating himself began to cough tremendously. "Mister! says a bystander, "you've got a cold, have you?" "I," said the other, "upon my honor I'm glad of it I'm so wretched poor it's a consolation to get any thing."

"Touch not—Handle not."—One of those meddling gentlemen, who are never satisfied until they have put their finger on every thing they see, was not long since observed by a friend with his hand "dug up in some half dozen handkerchiefs." He accosted him with the usual question, "What's your hand?" "Why," the other day I went into the mill to see 'em saw clabboards, and I saw a thing whirling round so swift; and it looked so smooth and slick, I thought I'd just touch my finger to it, and see how it felt; and don't you think it took the end right off, and then they bawled out, you mustn't touch that, it's the circular saw that saws all the clabboards, but they spoke half a second too late; the end of my finger was gone and I have never seen it since."

Travelling to boobies is of great use. It changes them from stupid blockheads into prating coxcombs; it improves them as bottling does small beer, which then becomes brisk without growing stronger. On the other hand, it gives an ease and polish to men of sense and learning, which nothing else can supply; a judicious mixture of those refined manners in which our neighbors excel, adds a grace and a brilliancy to every solid accomplishment.

What is civilization but an increase of human disparities? The more the luxury of the few, the more startling the wants and the more galling the sense of poverty. Even the dreams of the philanthropist only tend towards equality; and where is equality to be found but in the state of the savage?

Horrible Butchery.—Papers from the Isle of France relate the following shocking butchery, by a colonist, who had resolved to put a period to his own life, and with his own, that of each one of the family.

This person was of a mild and kindly disposition, of great respectability, and not yet past the prime of life. Having carefully meditated his purpose, he rose during the night, and stabbed successively, his youngest son, an infant of the cradle; his eldest son, about six years of age; and finally his wife; who, awakened by the first blow aimed at her, and endeavoring to defend herself, expired after receiving twenty-two wounds. This horrible butchery accomplished, the miserable perpetrator ran the weapon through his own body. He lingered during 15 hours, and replied to the magistrate who examined him with the utmost calmness and reason. He declared, that having extinguished his name, and withdrawn his family from persecution, he died satisfied. He received the sacrament of his church, and persevered to the last moment in expressions of the most entire satisfaction.

The Pinch.—We once knew a man who, on his return from a public meeting, burst open his door in a rage, upset his children, kicked the dog, hurled his hat behind the grate, and paced the apartment back and forth with the ferocity of a chafed tiger.—"What is the matter, my dear?" said his wondering wife. "Matter enough!"—Neighbor B—has publicly called me a liar!" "Oh, never mind that, my dear," replied the good woman, "he can't prove it, you know, and no body will believe him." "Prove it, you fool!" roared the madman more furiously than before, "he did prove it! He brought witnesses and proved it on the spot!" Else how should I be in such a devil of a passion?"—The argument was a poser.

Rowland Stevenson.—This celebrated person who made so much noise in this city, a few years ago, was arrested on Tuesday last, and is now in prison. Stevenson was one of the partners in the banking house of Remington, Stevenson & Co. fled from London to this country, and was charged with having abstracted a large portion of the funds of the firm, which in consequence was declared bankrupt and we understand has paid a dividend of about eight shillings on the pound. Since this period Stevenson has been living in a very humble style in Bristol, Penn. Ex Sheriff Parkins was a creditor of the house, and at his suit Stevenson was arrested, and as bail was demanded for about eight thousand dollars, which he could not give, he went to prison. He is now confined in the same building with Parkins; the meeting between them is said to have been something what peculiar.—

N. N. Daily Adv.

Duelling by Wholesale.—A letter from New Orleans dated the 24th ult. says: "I have only time to inform you that this has been quite a day of duelling. Charles M. Conrad killed J. W. Hunt; McCaleb wounded Leigh, son of B. W. Leigh, in the arm and body; and A. Bogue and Margoy had a set-to with swords; both pretty badly hurt. Conrad and McCaleb came off without a wound." Dr. Hunt of Charleston, acted as a second in two of the above duels.

Boston Gaz.

Indian News.—Col. Henry Dodge, of regiments, with two companies of rangers (Captains Beckus and Brown's) commenced his march towards the rapids on Rock river, last Sunday, for the purpose of dislodging Maneater's band of Winnebagoes.—It appears that this chief after all that has been done and said on the subject, is still lurking about the rapids with his band amidst the thick forests and swamps of that country. The other Indians, we are informed, have crossed the Wisconsin according to the stipulations of the treaty of last fall.

Col. Dodge is ordered to demand the rangers who escaped from the prison at Fort Winnebago last fall, and now are thought to be skulking about in Maneater's band. This demand certainly will be made, and when made, must, and of course will, be persisted in till they are given up. Whether any resistance will be made or not, we expect to be able to inform our readers in our next number.

Gallian.

Singular Phenomenon.—On Monday evening last, while some workmen were employed in digging down a bank of sand at the lower steamboat landing, a flame burst out of a crevice in the bank, by which shavings were readily ignited. It continued for several minutes. On examining the place, the sand was found to be literally charged with a substance resembling phosphorus. Several persons attempted to carry particles of it away, but it would soon flame and burn out. We ourselves carried a piece 150 yards before it burst into a burning flame, and produced a most brilliant illumination! We say burning, because we have the effect of its heat to show on one of our hands, as well as several other persons.

Alex. (La.) Gaz

Nullifiers.—The nullifiers are making a great noise, in barbecues and drunken revelries; and in this way they pretend to struggle for southern rights. We should like to know what right they are struggling for now—or why the excitement is kept up, unless it be to conceal the weakness of their numbers and the desperate situation of the party—if party it may be called.

Sea-serpent problem solved.—It now appears that the sea-serpent is neither more nor less than a Horse Mackerel! This fish can swim with his head a few feet out of water, which requires great force of the lower extremity, and every stroke of his tail causes a swell in the water behind, and a succession of these

swell forms what has been so often reported as the hump on the back of a Doctor of Medicine, who has also been the harbor of Boston. This is a cruel discovery in the present time—news—a sea-serpent is better than a doctor.

N. C. P.

Sickness in Mississippi.—The paper of the 8th instant, says: "There is much sickness in the country at this time. The complaints are those usual at this season of the year: congestive and bilious fevers, and some chill and fever. La Grippe also in a mild character, has prevailed.—This Town has also had its share of affliction, has not been so severely dealt with as the country generally, or some other towns in the State.

The sickness is very general and very fatal, we understand, in the counties of Madison, Yazoo, and the other new settlements of the State—also in Indian county. We have before us a letter from Clinton, dated the 4th inst. which represents the afflictions of that place as considerable. "Yesterday," says the letter, "our court was to commence at Raymond, but owing to sickness there could not be a grand Jury formed."

Newark Sept. 18

We are happy to learn, that the commissioners on the part of the State of New Jersey and New York on Monday last concluded their negotiations, a satisfactory settlement of the territorial limits and jurisdiction between two States. We understand that adjustment has been made on an equitable principle; and each State the enjoyment of all substantial rights. We rejoice in the termination of this unpleasant matter, and in the full return of good will between the two States. As our Legislature will convene in a few weeks, we may soon expect in possession of the "freedom of the soil."

The first number of the new paper, the "New Jersey Freeman," reached us yesterday, and from it the following leading topic of the day is

the deposition of an opponent of the late rash act of the President, received by his disinterested and real well-wishers.

FROM THE EVENING STAR

"The Deposites in the United States Bank are to be removed." We hope that this measure, so momentous in its bearings, the result of which will be foreseen, involving deeply the great interests of the country, will not have been adopted by the Executive at this time. For months had the rumor circulated that this step had been resolved upon, and would be taken. We placed no confidence in the pretence that proclaimed it. We had no faith in the sources of information. We relied upon the good sense and wisdom of the President. We knew the character and worth of the members of his Cabinet, and we could not believe it. Less than ninety days, (the ordinary length of commercial paper,) before the meeting of Congress, to whom, especially to the House of Representatives, the People and the Constitution confided the finances of the country, this measure is announced from the Secretary of the President. Was the danger so pressing? Were the funds of the Government so insecure? Were the principles upon which our republican institutions are founded, so blasted or corrupted by the influence of the Bank, that the Representatives of the People could not meet early enough to save the country from ruin, or its finances from insolvency; or could those Representatives, coming, as they will come, at an early day, from the body of the People, be confided in this important crisis? Were not those men elected at the same time—a great majority elevated by the same votes that secured Gen. Jackson in the Presidential Chair? Are two hundred Representatives less worthy of trust than one man? Has the republican party so lost its integrity, its honor, and its virtue, that it has filled the halls of Congress with the tools of a moneyed aristocracy? Can this be so? The Bank—the Bank is nothing. Were its stock, its gold and silver, its notes and bills of exchange, all destroyed, utterly destroyed, by the single dash of the pen, it would be nothing,